

MC Bulletins

Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation President Mike Traynor Passes

Mike Traynor, 70, President of the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation and co-founder of the Ride for Kids®, passed away in Asheville, North Carolina, on September 12, after a brief illness.



Mike Traynor, 1939-2009.

Inspired by a close friend who lost a child to a brain tumor, Traynor along with his wife, Dianne, used his lifelong passion for motorcycles to begin hosting Ride For Kids events to create awareness and raise funds for pediatric brain tumor research in 1984. The success of those events led the Traynors to create the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, committing to make finding a cure their life's work. PBTF has since gone on to become the largest private source of funding for pediatric brain tumor research in the world, raising over \$50 million in research and family support funding in less than 20 years. In 2009, PBTF hosted 39 Ride For Kids events all around the US.

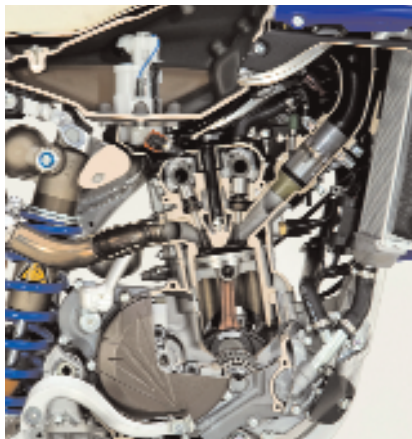
Recognized in the motorcycling community as a worldwide ambassador for the sport, Traynor has been recognized via several outstanding motorcyclist awards, including the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) Hazel Kolb Brighter Image Award, AMA Road Rider of the Year, Motorcycle Consumer News' Ed Culbertson Memorial Award, Rider magazine's Top Supporter and Rider of the Year, and Motorcyclist magazine's Motorcyclist of the Year. At the time of his death, he served on the board of directors for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation and the Central Brain Tumor Registry of the United States, which he also founded.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to the

Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, 302 Ridgefield Ct., Asheville, NC 28806.

Yamaha Unveils Radical New YZ450F Motocrosser

While our focus is mainly on street motorcycles here at MCN, we're also fond of motorcycle technology in all categories, so we couldn't resist showing you a cut-away engine photo of the latest motocross machine from Yamaha. The same company that stood the motocross world on its collective head with the introduction of the YZ400F four-stroke motocross bike in 1998 has now turned its own head backwards with the introduction of its all-new 2010 Yamaha YZ450F.



This cutaway shows the reverse cylinder head layout of the 2010 Yamaha YZ450F.

The YZ450F engine design features a rearward slanted cylinder and a new DOHC 4-valve (not 5) cylinder head layout that places the intake tract at the front of the engine and the exhaust tract at the rear. The engine is fed air via an airbox located above the bike's dual radiators, with the exhaust header exiting where the airbox used to be. Yamaha says that the new design centralizes mass by lowering overall engine height and also improves engine performance by straightening the intake path. Also, offsetting the cylinder forward of the crankshaft centerline serves to make the connecting rod more vertical at the moment of greatest combustion pressure, improving mechanical efficiency and reducing side thrust on the nearly disc-shaped piston which minimizes friction and wear.

In another first for the category, Yamaha will be offering an accessory power tuner through its GYTR parts and accessories

division for the YZ450F which should be priced around \$250. The power tuner will allow owners to actually adjust the shape of the powerband to the track conditions, not just in several steps like other systems. For more information on the 2010 Yamaha YZ450F, visit www.yamaha-motor.com

Yamaha's 2010 streetbike lineup will also include a new R1 Limited Edition (with Rossi replica graphics) and Stratoliner Deluxe cruiser.

Zero Motorcycles Joins National Alternative Energy Program

Zero Motorcycles has announced its partnership with the star-studded team behind the award-winning documentary *Fuel*. In conjunction with the documentary's national opening in select cities on September 18, the team behind *Fuel* created The Veggie Van Organization, a not-for-profit group that aims to facilitate the transition from fossil fuels to a new green economy using sustainable energy. The Veggie Van Organization will be setting out on a cross-country excursion to promote *Fuel* and educate students of all ages about alternative fuels. Zero Motorcycles is supporting these efforts by contributing a Zero S electric motorcycle to the motorcade for the 13-city nationwide tour, visiting college campuses and events to promote energy independence.

The Veggie Van Organization was founded by filmmaker and environmental activist Josh Tickell following the creation of his documentary film, *Fuel*, a Sundance Film Festival Audience Award Winner for Best Documentary. The film chronicles Tickell's 1998 journey across America in a biodiesel-powered "Veggie Van" interviewing politicians, historians, professors and activist celebrities and getting their varying takes on the pressing environmental issues that the nation faces. Examining the ways in which energy can be obtained and used without compromising peace or freedom, *Fuel* features activists and celebrities such as attorney and environmentalist Robert Kennedy Jr., Virgin companies founder Richard Branson, singer Sheryl Crow and actress Julia Roberts.

For information on Zero Motorcycles, visit www.zeromotorcycles.com For more information on The Veggie Van Organization, visit www.veggievan.org. For more information on *Fuel* visit www.the-fueelfilm.com

AMA Expresses Concerns Over Health Care Debate

The American Motorcyclist Association has issued a news release that expresses concerns over the provisions of the politically charged national health care reform bills currently under consideration by Congress. The AMA has said that it will oppose any legislation that may restrict the freedoms of millions of riders who enjoy an active lifestyle.

"Motorcyclists and ATV riders cherish personal freedom and responsibility when it comes to enjoying their passion for riding," the release states. "As Congress continues to deliberate on health care reform, the AMA needs your help in urging your elected officials not to abdicate the rights of the insured to an unelected commission or board, which will render final decisions regarding appropriate medical coverage for individuals who ride as a mode of transportation or for recreation (e.g., denial of a procedure). We must remain vigilant, thereby helping to ensure that motorcyclists and ATV riders will continue to be able to pursue their chosen recreational pursuit without the addition of unneeded prohibitions, limitations or mandates stemming from the health care legislation under consideration."

According to the AMA, there are precedents that should concern motorcyclists when it comes to any health care legislation being considered.

"In 1996, Congress passed the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) that was intended to ensure non-discrimination in health coverage in the group market. However, when it came to implementing the law, the Department of Labor, the Internal Revenue Service and the Health Care Financing Administration—now the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services—issued a rule allowing insurers to deny health benefits for an otherwise covered injury that results from certain types of recreational activities, such as skiing, horseback riding, snowmobiling or motorcycling. Even though the AMA has fought this discriminatory rule with legislation, this indicates what could happen if a new health care bill is implemented by bureaucrats in Washington using biased data."

The AMA is urging motorcyclists to contact their elected officials and voice their concern via telephone or by logging onto AmericanMotorcyclist.com. Click on 'Rights,' then 'Issues & Legislation,' and enter your zip code in the 'Find your Officials' box. Additionally, a prewritten e-mail is available for you to send to your officials by following the 'Take Action' option and entering your information.

Latest Recalls

Buell

Model: 2009 XB12SS

Component: Service Brakes, Hydraulic

Potential number of units affected: 405

Summary: Buell is recalling model year 2009 XB2SS motorcycles. The front brake line may contact the front tire. This contact could cause a hole to develop in the front brake line, allowing brake fluid to leak.

Consequence: This condition might cause an ineffective front brake and lead to a crash.

Remedy: Dealers will inspect the front brake line and if undamaged, install a guide on the line. If the line is damaged, it will be replaced and re-routed. Either repair will be performed free of charge. The recall is expected to begin on or before September

21, 2009. Owners may contact Buell Distribution Company at 414-343-8400.

NHTSA campaign ID number: 09V347000

AFX North America

Model: FX-28

Component: Equipment: Motorcycle: Helmets
Potential number of units affected: 984

Summary: AFX is recalling certain model FX-28 motorcycle helmets, sizes XS, SM, and MD, manufactured during December 2007. These helmets fail to comply with the penetration requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard no. 218, "motorcycle helmets."

Consequence: In the event of a crash, the wearer of the helmet may not be adequately protected, possibly resulting in personal injury.

Remedy: AFX will notify owners and provide a replacement helmet free of charge. The safety recall is expected to begin during September 2009. Owners may contact AFX at 519-686-6477.

NHTSA campaign ID number: 09E052000

FEMA Seeks Comment as Europe Looks to Adopt Safer Guardrails

Faced with delays in the adoption of new testing standards for road restraint systems, the Federation of European Motorcyclists (FEMA) is supporting the work of the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) by launching a pan-European call for testimonies to gather personal stories and reports of motorcyclists injured in crash barrier collisions.

FEMA has been campaigning for safer road restraint systems for the last 20 years, and expects the new standard to be adopted before next summer. Since 2007, FEMA has been granted liaison status with CEN.

Most road restraint systems consist of a simple metal rail, and while this design offers acceptable energy absorption properties for four-wheeled vehicle crashes, exposed support beams at ground level can cause major and lethal injuries to motorcyclists falling and sliding on the road. Unfortunately, police and emergency services records across Europe rarely give accurate data on guardrail-related casualties: detailed information is missing as cases are rarely identified and reported as such.

FEMA's survey will gather testimonies from riders and relatives describing injuries suffered while hitting guardrails. It consists of a 21-question survey open to all, available online in English, Spanish,

German, Italian and French. Participants are invited to give as much detail as possible about the accident they are reporting, in order to allow the creation of a comprehensive database of user cases. The survey is available on FEMA's website: at the following address: www.femaonline.eu/index.php?page=guardrails

Iron Butt Rally Celebrates 25th Anniversary

This year marked the 25th Anniversary of the Iron Butt Rally (IBR), which was run from August 24 through September 4. The biennial event began in Spartanburg, SC, with mandatory checkpoints in St. Charles, IL and Santa Ana, CA, before finishing in Spokane, WA.

The theme for this year's rally was crime scenes. Bonus locations ranged from the ordinary, visiting a bank in Northfield, MN that the James' gang robbed, to the macabre, taking a photo of the statue marking the Donner party's encampment.

When the dust settled, four of the finest and most efficient route planners the Iron Butt has ever seen were atop of the leaderboard. In one of the closest finishes in its history with only a 3% difference in points between the top eight finishers, Jim Owen (BMW R1200RT) was first, followed by Jeff Earls (BMW K1200GT), Eric Jewel (Honda ST1300) and Chris Sakala (BMW R1200RT).